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Recommended Citation

Franklin, Phyllis, "Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991): Letter to the Editor 01" (1991). *Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991)*. Paper 39.

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MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

10 ASTOR PLACE

NEW YORK, NY 10003

17 April 1991

Letters to the Editor

Newsweek

444 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

To the Editor:

George Will's column of 22 April 1991 questions the qualifications of the Modern Language Association to render an opinion on the nomination of Carol Iannone to the council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Modern Language Association is a 107-year-old learned society, a noted publisher of scholarly works such as the New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare and the MLA International Bibliography, and a public-spirited organizer of literacy conferences and institutes to improve language teaching. The MLA's 29,000 members hold a great variety of scholarly, critical, and political views.

Congressional legislation calls for members of the NEH National Council to "have established records of distinguished service and scholarship or creativity." Carol Iannone's record falls short of this legislative requirement.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Franklin
Executive Director